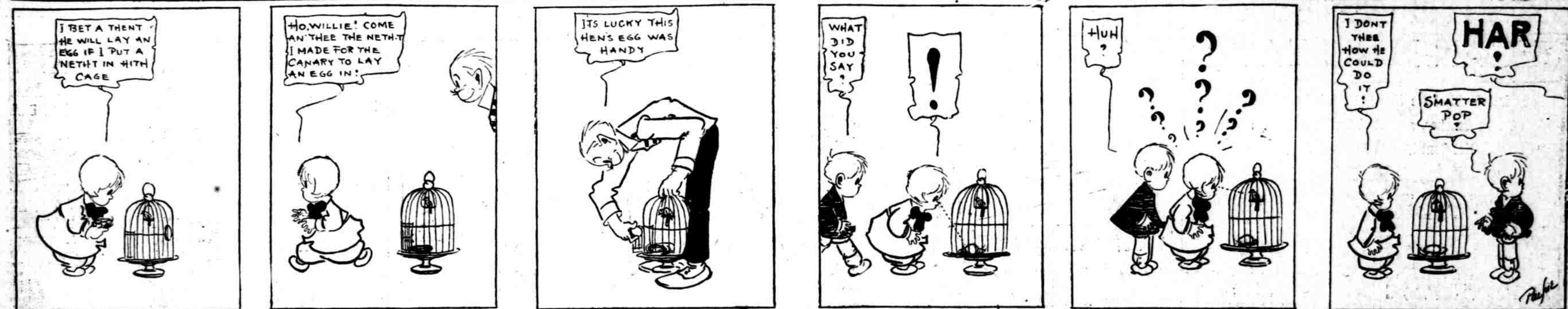


"S" MATTER, POP?"



THE TIMES DAILY SERIAL STORY

THE GHOST GIRL

By Henry Kitchell Webster
Author of The Whispering Man
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Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.

First read this story and pick up the thread of one of the most remarkable mystery stories ever written.

Arthur Jeffrey is a handsome, well-developed, intelligent, a sort of sixth sense, which is a great asset, and yet not quite that. Throughout a period of two years Jeffrey has been the victim of a peculiar haunting. He has seen a hand, heard a voice, and felt a presence. He has found a partially finished portrait of a woman, and a woman's handkerchief. A week later, when he returned, he found a partially finished portrait of a woman, and a woman's handkerchief. A week later, when he returned, he found a partially finished portrait of a woman, and a woman's handkerchief.

CHAPTER XV.
A Night Ride.

ALL he wanted for was my somewhat dubious nod of assent. Already he was in my desk chair, and by unhooking the telephone receiver he cut short the flood of questions I'd have overwhelmed him with if he'd given me the chance.

"There's a stand on the corner, isn't there? That'll be quicker than phoning for one. Do you mind getting it?"

I answered by catching up my coat and hat. "While you're at the phone, though," said Jeffrey, "do you mind calling my house and telling Jack or Gwen I'm here? I can't be home tonight. Luckily Madeline's away."

"That's a good notion, Drew," he spoke as though it were a particularly shrewd idea, and in the least sarcastically, either. Evidently, he had suggested something to him so instantaneously that he thought the suggestion itself had come from me. He often did that. I wondered what the idea was, but he saved me away. So I rushed out and left him to arrange matters his own way.

When I came back with the cab, I found him waiting at the curb. That surprised me, because I had got the idea that secrecy was to be part of the program. If any one were on the watch it would be easy enough to see us starting off together, at any rate. Just as Jeffrey took his seat beside me another taxi came up behind, rather slowly, as if waiting to see what we wanted of the road before it tried to pass.

Jeffrey glanced back at it and then called an address to our own chauffeur. The address was that of my own house uptown.

In a moment I thought I had the idea. The taxi behind meant to follow us and Jeffrey had called out that address to throw them off the trail.

Our chauffeur, with a warning gesture to the car behind, pulled out into the road and turned around, the other taxi checking up at the curb to give us room. The occupant of it was an insignificant-looking fellow, but I gave you an impression of shabbiness and shabbiness all at the same time. He didn't look at us at all, seemed to be looking along for street number. His taxi was still joggling along close to the curb when we turned the corner.

"We needn't have taken so much trouble to mislead him after all," said Jeffrey. "I thought for an instant he was a detective, and evidently, did you what address did you really want to go to?"

"That's the right address for your house, isn't it?"

"What are we going to my house for?" I demanded.

"Why," said Jeffrey, "I thought that was your own idea. But it doesn't matter which of us thought of it. It went on as I started to protest. 'It's the right place for us to go.'"

At that the light went out of his eyes and he leaned back limply against the cushions, so completely absorbed in the train of thought that was occupying his mind that I hadn't the heart for any more questions.

The taxi was chugging along, not so very fast, and I was in the need for haste that Jeffrey had impressed upon me strongly in mind, reached for the speaking tube and was about to tell the chauffeur to speed up a little, when Jeffrey took it away from me and shook his head.

"No hurry," he said. "He's going fast enough."

So by the time we had pulled up at my own door, I was pretty completely mystified.

There was another car standing there, and when we got near enough, I recognized it as Jack's big limousine. Evidently he and Gwen were going out somewhere, for the door opened just as our car stopped and they came down the steps.

"Good! We want the taxi again, Jeffrey!" I asked.

"No," he said. "We're through with him."

So I turned to pay the driver. Jeffrey lounged out of the cab, and at sight of him, Gwen and Jack both exclaimed their pleasure at the meeting.

I got my change back from the driver and then, just as I was turning away to join the group, I saw another taxi round the corner. It might have been fancy, but I thought I recognized it for the same car that had come up behind us just as we were leaving my office. We had been followed, then, after all. The car was joggling along in no greater hurry than we seemed to be in ourselves.

"What are you people going to do with yourselves?" asked Gwen.

"We've nothing in particular to do," said Jeffrey.

"We're going down to dine at one of the restaurants," said Jeffrey. "I don't know," said Jeffrey. "We're nothing in particular to do."

"All the while the other taxi had been drawing closer. Just as it came opposite us Jeffrey said:

"We'll have to run away afterward. We've an engagement for the end of the evening."

"Let's waste no time beginning it then," said Jack, and he caught Jeffrey by the arm and began pushing him toward the car.

"All right," said Jeffrey.

I followed without a word. The other taxi had gone by, still rather slowly. Our car started off with a jump the minute the door was shut behind me. Evidently the chauffeur had been told what to do. At the corner we turned to the right, which was natural enough if we wanted to follow the avenue downtown. But at the first corner we whipped around to the right again and in a minute were flying along on the high speed northward.

"We timed that pretty well, I think," said Gwen.

"I never dressed so fast in my life and I'm sure the hooks up my back are just caught into anything. But it certainly went as smoothly as if it had been rehearsed. I was so afraid I wouldn't be able to say Lafayette at the right time. But he did hear it. I'm sure. And then, if anything, we were more respectful."

"An awful clever idea," said Gwen.

"I don't believe any professional ever spoke or acted with more caution than Gwen did."

"I think I've got everything you need in here," said Jeffrey. "Everything you spoke of, and I have put in an extra suit of clothes of Cliff's and one of Jack's for you. It ought to fit pretty well. I think. And then, if anything happens, if your looks get damaged or anything, the fresh clothes will be much more respectable."

"Bully for you," Jeffrey said. "You know you people are a pair of trumps to turn in and help us out this way. We're making criminals of you, too. Accessories before the fact. That's the term. I think. And then, if anything happens, if your looks get damaged or anything, the fresh clothes will be much more respectable."

"We're going to be ever so much more 'accessory' than you think," said Gwen.

"We're going all the way to Oldborough. Oh! Jack says it's all right," she went on in answer to my movement of protest. "What's the sense of the getting on at the ferry and going back when we can just as well go all the way and see the fun?"

"I don't doubt if it turns out to be precisely a picnic," said Jeffrey seriously. "I don't see exactly how we're recovered from severe lung trouble."

Plenty of fresh air and good food are necessary to persons suffering from lung trouble, but something more is needed to bring about full health. Eckman's Alternative is a medicine for throat and lung troubles, and so many reports have been received showing that it brought about good results in a number of cases which were declared hopeless, that all sufferers who are not benefiting otherwise should at least investigate what it has done for others. Investigate this case:

"Gentlemen: In December, 1908, March, 1909, and September, 1909, I was taken with hemorrhages of the lungs which continued several weeks, each time to my bed. My doctor advised me to take Eckman's Alternative. In November I started for Denver, Colo. After my arrival I met Michael Brody, who, upon hearing of my condition, urged me to take Eckman's Alternative. In about two weeks I began to feel better, and in taking the medicine and improved fast. In March, 1910, I returned home. I think I am better now. I have gained weight and feel well. When I left Denver my weight was 120 lbs. Now I weigh 165 lbs. I feel well. I thank God and your Alternative for my health."

(Above abbreviated; more on request.)

Eckman's Alternative has been proven by many years' test to be most efficacious in cases of severe Throat and Lung Affections, Bronchitis, Bronchial Asthma, Stomach Cold and in upbuilding the system. Does not contain narcotics, poisons or habit-forming drugs. For sale by O'Donnell's Drug Stores and other leading druggists. Write the Eckman Laboratory, Philadelphia, Pa., for booklet telling of recoveries and additional evidence.—Adv.

BOYS WILL ORATE
TO OBTAIN PRIZESMontgomery County Students
Enter Contest to Be Held
on May 16 and 24.

ROCKVILLE, Md., April 17.—The annual oratorical contests among the public school boys of Montgomery county will be held May 16 and 24. Brainerd H. Warner, of Kensington, who inaugurated these contests several years ago, will again donate the prizes, which aggregate \$50 in gold.

On May 15, the preliminary contests will be held. These will be open to representatives of one and two room schools, and will take place at the following schools: Laytonsville, Clark-

burg, Poolesville, Rockville, Colesville, Darnestown, Sandy Spring, Gaithersburg, Potomac, Barnesville, Damascus, and Kensington. The winners of these contests will participate in a general contest to be held at Rockville the morning of May 24.

The afternoon of May 24, representatives of schools with three or more teachers will take part in a general contest at Rockville, the schools to be represented including Rockville, Darnestown, Sandy Spring, Chevy Chase, Gaithersburg, Poolesville, Brookeville, Bethesda, Kensington, Woodside, and Damascus. In each of the Rockville contests, first, second and third prizes of \$15, \$10, and \$5 in gold, respectively, will be awarded.

Alfred M. Earp, of Colesville district, has announced himself a candidate for one of the Democratic nominations for the house of delegates, and in the first to make formal announcement of his desire to represent the county in the lower house of the legislature.

Eugene A. McAtee, of Boyds, has announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for county commissioner, from the second collection district to succeed Commissioner Joseph T. White.

The work of picking the River road from Cohasset, this county, to the District line, soon will be started. The county commissioners have awarded the

contract to Forayth & Smith, of Belair, Md., the price being \$34,806.54. The distance is a little more than three miles.

Among the recent marriages in this county was that of Miss Caroline Burdette McCullough, of Gaithersburg, this county, and Alvan Harlan Gallaher, of Childs, Cecil county, Md., which took place at the home of the bride's uncle, Richard H. Miles, in Gaithersburg. The ceremony was performed by the bride's father, Rev. Charles E. McCullough, pastor of the Methodist Church at Selbyville, Del.

Licenses to marry have been issued here to Harry Ford Pearce and Miss Ruth Ann Sheekels, both of Damascus, this county, and Price Davis Hall, of Harrisonburg, Va., and Miss Grace Elizabeth Frye, of Mt. Jackson, Va.

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The antiseptic powder to be shaken into the shoes. If you want rest and comfort for tired, aching, swollen, sweating feet, use Allen's Foot-Ease. It relieves corns and bunions of all pain and prevents blisters, and callous spots. Just the thing for breaking in new shoes. It is the greatest comfort discovery of the century. Try it today. Sold everywhere. 25 cents. Don't accept a substitute. For FREE trial package, address Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.—Adv.

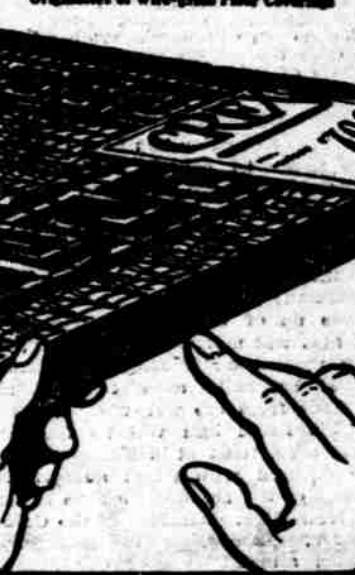
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Originators of Wire-grass Floor Coverings



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CAMBRIDGE AND OXFORD
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Women who bear children and remain healthy are those who prepare their systems in advance of baby's coming. Unless the mother aids nature in its pre-natal work, the crisis finds her system unequal to the demands made upon it, and she is often left with weakened health or chronic ailments. No remedy is so truly a help to nature as Mother's Friend. It relieves the pain and discomfort caused by the strain on the ligaments, makes pliant those fibres and muscles which nature is expanding, and soothes the inflammation of breast glands. Mother's Friend assures a speedy and complete recovery for the mother, and she is left a healthy woman to enjoy the rearing of her child. Mother's Friend is sold at drug stores. Write for our free book for expectant mothers.

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N. Y. WINTER GARDEN CO., Presenting

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Screamingly Funny Travesties on Popular
Nights, 8:30 to 11:00. Sat. Mat.
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Dr. Roller vs. Frank Beck. Finish match
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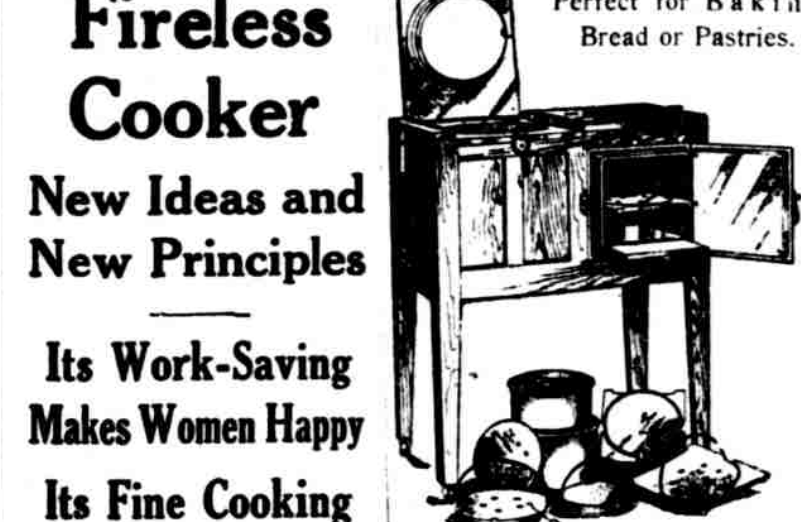
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